

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 183372 TOSEC 080186
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA:TRESTON:MAD

APPROVED BY PA:TRESTON

S/S-O - SRPVALERGA

-----105796 200202Z /62

P 200122Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 183372 TOSEC 080186

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING

NO. 19

1. THE SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING OF JULY 19 COVERED TWO MAIN TOPICS: THE BLOCKING OF A COMPUTER SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE CALLING IN OF A SOVIET DIPLOMAT TO DISCUSS WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN THE UNITED STATES. SPOKESMAN OPENED THE BRIEFING BY MAKING FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT: "THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MR. RICHARD COOPER, WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA FROM JULY 21 TO JULY 23. THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP IS TO BRIEF SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS ON THE RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING RECENTLY HELD IN BONN, GERMANY. MR. COOPER WILL ALSO DISCUSS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS THE WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN LIGHT OF THE BONN SUMMIT. THE UNDER SECRETARY'S TRIP TAKES PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ONGOING DIALOGUE ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 183372 TOSEC 080186

ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA."

2. ON THE SALE OF COMPUTERS TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE DISCUSSION ON WHETHER TO PROVIDE CERTAIN OIL-DRILLING TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIET UNION, SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE CASES

TO WHICH YOU REFER HAVE BEEN UNDER REVIEW WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SOME TIME. A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO PUT OIL PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT UNDER SO-CALLED VALIDATED EXPORT LICENSE. THIS MEANS THAT THE PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERING THE EXPORT OF SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR GREATER COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY IN THE QUESTION OF DECISION MAKING. EACH REQUEST FOR APPROVAL WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS IN LIGHT OF PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES. I MIGHT SAY THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THE DRESSER REQUEST FOR EXPORT TO THE SOVIET UNION OF DRILL-BIT TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. THE EXPORT OF A SPERRY UNIVAC COMPUTER TO TASS HAS BEEN DENIED BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

LET ME ADD THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE, HAS CONCURRED IN THIS DECISION."

3. AS TO THE QUESTION OF WHY OIL-DRILLING EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION, SPOKESMAN SAID: "I THINK WE WANTED TO BE ABLE TECHNICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY TO PURSUE A RATIONAL AND COHERENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN EACH OF THESE CASES AS THEY COME ALONG. I THINK THE FACT THAT WE HAVE PUT IT UNDER VALIDATED EXPORT LICENSE PROCEDURES WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS AGENCIES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 183372 TOSEC 080186

OF THE GOVERNMENT -- COMMERCE, THE WHITE HOUSE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- IT WILL ENABLE ALL OF THESE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A COHERENT AND RATIONAL VIEW OF EACH OF THESE DECISIONS AS THEY COME UP."

4. SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO BE DRAWN FURTHER AS TO PURPOSE, OBJECTIVE, OR RATIONALE FOR THESE POLICY DECISIONS.

5. SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WAS BEING CALLED TO THE DEPARTMENT TODAY TO DISCUSS "A VARIETY OF MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE WORK AND OPERATIONS OF SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN THIS COUNTRY." SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO DRAW A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS MATTER AND THE WHITNEY-PIPER CASE. HE ALSO REFUSED FURTHER TO SPECIFY THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING WITH THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT.

6. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE REGARDING A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY IAN SMITH IN RHODESIA: "Q: ON ANOTHER AFRICAN SUBJECT, COULD I ASK YOU WHETHER THIS GOVERNMENT HAS ANY REACTION TO THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO PRIME MINISTER SMITH IN A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT PROMISING BLACK MAJORITY RULE BY THE END

OF THE YEAR WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNLESS THERE'S A CEASE-

FIRE IN THE SIX-YEAR-OLD GUERRILLA WAR?

I GUESS IN FAIRNESS I SHOULD SAY THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA IN THIS TOWN SAID AN HOUR OR SO AGO THAT HE'D BEEN ON THE TELEPHONE TO MR. SMITH AND MR. SMITH DENIED HAVING SAID THIS, BUT I WONDERED IF YOU HAD ANY REACTION TO THAT WHOLE INCIDENT.

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT MR. SMITH NOTED THAT ONE OF THE PARTS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WAS THAT THE WAR WOULD HAVE TO END SO THAT ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD UNDER PEACEFUL CONDITIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WENT ON TO STATE HIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 183372 TOSEC 080186

DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD. AND HE APPARENTLY -- AND HERE WE ONLY HAVE PRESS REPORTS -- INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER WITH HIS OTHER COLLEAGUES ON THE SALISBURY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDING A MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, AS WE AND THE BRITISH HAVE PROPOSED.

WE BELIEVE THAT MR. SMITH'S REMARKS UNDERSCORE THE DELICACY OF THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA AND THE DIFFICULTY OF CREATING CONDITIONS OF PEACE WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES.

IT ALSO UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH THE BRITISH TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER AT A MEETING WHERE SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED.

WE HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS -- OUR CONGRESS -- WILL ACT WITH RESTRAINT IN REGARD TO THIS DELICATE SITUATION.

AND IN THIS CONNECTION LET ME SAY THAT PASSAGE OF THE SO-CALLED HELMS AMENDMENT TO LIFT SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA COULD, IN OUR VIEW, SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR PURSUIT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

NOW, HAVING GIVEN YOU THAT STATEMENT, LET ME SAY THAT WE REALLY ARE RELYING ON PRESS REPORTS HERE AND OBVIOUSLY MR. SMITH IS THE ONE WHO BEST KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT THIS STATEMENT IS ON THE BASIS OF PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN." CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE183372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRESTON:MAD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780297-0369
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780736/aaaabdxt.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7efe146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1932623
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON PRESS BRIEFING NO. 19
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7efe146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014